

United States Embassy Brussels, Belgium ++32-2-811-4000 USCitizenBrussels@state.gov Belgium.usembassy.gov

List of English-Speaking Attorneys in Belgium

DISCLAIMER: The United States Embassy at Brussels, Belgium assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or the United States Embassy. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. The information in the list on professional credentials, areas of expertise and language ability are provided directly by the lawyers; the Embassy is not in a position to vouch for such information. You may receive additional information about the individuals by contacting the local bar association (or its equivalent) or the local licensing authorities.

June 2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

In the Consular District of Belgium	4
Retaining a Foreign Attorney	5
List of Attorneys - Location and name of attorney	
Aalst	
BV-BVBA COTTYN	7
Antwerp	
Advocatenkantoor (Lawyer Office) Carsau Frans	8
Advocatenkantoor MARINOWER BVBA	8
A-LAW International Law Firm	9
BOONEN - VAN CRAEN Advocaten	9
DU MONGH LAWYERS	9
ELEGIS - Huybrechts Engels Craen and Partners	10
ERDMAN, Frederik	10
LAW FIRM MERTENS, MATTHEESSENS & MERTENS	10
MUL Law Offices	11
NCD Law	11
PETERFREUND & Associates	11
STAPPERS, ELIAERTS & THIERS	12
TRITSMANS Advocatenkantoor	12
VAN GOETHEM	12
Bruges	
Advocatenkantoor Ronse	13
DWL - LAW	13
Brussels	
BORNET & Associés	14
EVEREST Law	14
FRAGOMEN GLOBAL	14
HOFFMANN & Partners	15
KOAN Legal Strategies	15
LAFFINEUR Law Firm	15
LEXIAL	
	16
LINKLATERS IIp	16
LOYENS & LOEFF	16
MARX, VAN RANST, VERMEERSCH & Partners	17
SCHWEITZERLEX	17
VAN BAEL & BELLIS	18
VAN BELLE LAW	18
Charleroi	
STEWART AND STEWART (Correspondent Office of the Law offices of Stewart & Stewart	19
Ghent	
STORME, LEROY, VAN PARYS	20

Kortrijk	
Espace Juridique AvocatsS	21
Leuven	
DURNEZ ADVOCATEN	22
Liège	
DELFOSSE & Associés	23
DELFOSSE & ASSOCIES	23
Mons	
Cabinet F. SERVAIS & VAN GALEN	24
DIKEOS Société d'avocats	24

IN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF BELGIUM

BANKS: Several American and International banks have branches in Belgium and are listed in the local telephone directories (yellow pages, www.goldenpages.be).

THE BELGIAN 'NOTARIS' OR 'NOTAIRE': Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.

NOTARIES PUBLIC, as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notarissen/Notaires, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

U.S. Consular Officers may perform notarial services similar to those performed by a notary public in the United States. Such services include taking acknowledgments of signatures on documents for use in the United States, taking affidavits, and protests of negotiable paper and taking depositions. U.S. Consular officers may also perform authentications*.

*AUTHENTICATION OF OFFICIAL/PUBLIC DOCUMENTS AND SIGNATURES OF OFFICIALS: The United States and Belgium are parties to The Hague Convention Abolishing the Requirement of Legalization for Foreign Public Documents. The purpose of the convention is to abolish the requirement of diplomatic and consular legalization for public documents originating in one country that are intended for use in another. The phrase "public documents" includes documents executed before a foreign notary.

The U.S. Embassy is therefore <u>not</u> maintaining a file with Belgian notaries' signatures or seals. When required such signatures and seals may be authenticated in Belgium by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The same goes for sworn translators / interpreters whose signatures and seals may be authenticated by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs after having been authenticated by the Federal Public Service Justice.

RETAINING A FOREIGN ATTORNEY

In retaining the services of a foreign attorney concerning a private party dispute abroad, the following guidelines may assist you in protecting your interests.

I. Selecting an Attorney

When you receive a list of attorneys, we recommend that you contact several attorneys and briefly describe the nature of the services you desire. Before you decide which attorney to employ, ask for a written schedule of fees generally charged for the services you need, whether the attorney is fluent in the English language, and if possible become acquainted with a particular attorney. Do not turn over your documents or funds until you are certain that the attorney understands your problem and is willing to handle your case.

II. Notary Public**, "Notaris/Notaire"* and "Deurwaarder/ Huissier"

In Belgium, notaries public, "notarissen/notaires" and "deurwaarders/huissiers" can perform many of the functions performed by attorneys in the United States. For example, notaries frequently draft instruments, wills and conveyances. In Belgium a notary is a public official, appointed by the Federal Public Service Justice, whose functions include not only the preparation of documents, but the administration and settlement of estates. Such notaries may serve as repositories for wills and are empowered to serve legal documents. (In some countries "huissiers/deurwaarders" serve documents.) They hold law degrees. But do not plead cases in court.

- * The Belgian "Notaris/ Notaire": Every Belgian Commune (city or township) has officials, appointed for life, who administer estates and who are qualified to draw up legal instruments such as deeds, powers of attorney, mortgages, wills, and marriage contracts. They also act as interim administrators in transfers of property.
- ** Notaries public, as the term is used in the United States, do not exist in Belgium. Their duties are usually performed by Burgomasters (Mayors) as well as by Notaires/ Notarissen, who are empowered to acknowledge signatures and to administer oaths on documents prepared for use in Belgium.

III. Assistance of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate

Should your association with a foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, a U.S. consular officer can contact the attorney on your behalf in an effort to ease and expedite your mutual communication. In addition, complaints against foreign counsel whose names appear on the list of attorneys may result in the removal of their names from the list.

IV. Coordination with Counsel in the U.S.

U.S. attorneys may not be in a position to represent your interests abroad, particularly because they will not be permitted to participate in foreign court proceedings under the laws of the foreign country. U.S. attorneys experienced in international law may be helpful in explaining the complex international issues involved in your case and some may have associates or partners abroad to whom they can refer your case.

V. Legal Aid Associates

There are facilities in Belgium for low cost or free legal services. For more information, please contact your local bar association, (with offices attached to each individual court), your local Justitiehuis/Maison de Justice, or the Federal Public Service Justice about the availability of legal aid.

VI. How to Deal With Your Foreign Attorney

- **a.** Find out the attorney's qualifications and experience.
- **b.** Find out how the attorney plans to represent you. Ask specific questions and expect the attorney to explain legal activities in a language that you can understand.
- c. Find out what fees the attorney, "notaire/notaris" or "huissier/ deurwaarder" charges and how the attorney expects to be paid. "Notaires/ Notarissen" and "huissiers/ deurwaarders" are usually government officials who must charge fees established by their government. Some attorneys may expect to be paid in advance; some may demand payment after each action they take on your behalf, refusing to take further action until they are paid; and some may take the case on a percentage basis, collecting a pre-arranged percentage of the moneys awarded to you by the foreign court.
- **d.** Ask that your attorney keep you informed of the progress of your case according to a preestablished schedule. Remember that most foreign courts work rather slowly. You may, therefore, wish the attorney to send you monthly reports, even though no real developments have ensued, simply to satisfy your doubts about the progress of the case.
- **e.** Have your attorney analyze your case, giving you the positive and negative aspects and probable outcome.
- **f.** Do not expect your attorney to give a simple answer to a complex legal problem. Be sure that you understand the technical language in any contract or other legal document prepared by your attorney <u>before</u> you sign it.
- g. Keep your attorney fully informed of any new developments in the case.
- **h.** If you need to provide complex or technical documents to your attorney, you may wish to consider having the documents translated into the native language. Remember, an elementary knowledge of English may not be enough to enable the attorney to understand the documents you provide.
- **i.** Be honest with your attorney. Tell the attorney every relevant fact in order to get the best representation of your interest.
- j. Find out how much time the attorney anticipates the case may take to complete. <u>NOTE:</u> In some countries the courts recess for a period of several months. In addition, even if the case is resolved, currency control laws may delay the transferring of funds awarded to you from the foreign country for an indefinite period of time.
- **k.** Request copies of all letters and documents prepared on your behalf.

VII. Assistance of the Department of State

If you have additional questions, contact the consular section of the U.S. Embassy, the telephone number is 02/811 4300 or email: uscitizenbrussels@state.gov. You may also contact the appropriate division of the Office of Citizens Consular Services, Room 4817, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520.

VIII. Complaints Against Foreign Attorneys

If the services of your foreign attorney prove unsatisfactory, in addition to notifying the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Brussels, you may address your complaints to the appropriate bar association.

AALST

BV - BVBA COTTYN

Leopoldlaan 48 9300 Aalst

Tel: 053/77.36.35 Fax: 053/77.92.66 Email: info@cottyn.eu Website: www.cottyn.eu

Family law, adoptions, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, criminal law, contracts, corporations, government relations.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French and German.

ANTWERP

Advocatenkantoor (Lawyer Office) Carsau Frans

Kochdreef 1 2990 Wuustwezel

Tel: 03/344.02.37, 0475/67.52.95

Fax:

E-mail: frans.carsau@telenet.be
Website: www.frans-carsau.be

Family law, adoptions, parental child abduction, child protection, auto/accidents, child custody, damages, contracts, insurance, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, government relations, immigration.

Fluent Dutch, good English, German and French.

Advocatenkantoor MARINOWER BVBA

Consciencestraat 7 2018 Antwerp Tel: 03/287.60.90

Fax: 03/239.43.54

E-mail: marinower@skynet.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French, English, German and Hebrew.

A-LAW International Law Firm

Vlaamse Kaai 76 2000 Antwerp Tel: 03/232.68.88 Fax: 03/232.69.43

E-mail: info@a-law.eu; p.leers@a law.eu

Website: www.a-law.eu

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, Dutch, Polish, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, Bulgarian, Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Romanian.

BOONEN - VAN CRAEN Advocaten

Doggenhoutstraat 20

2520 Ranst

Tel: 03/353.99.77 Fax: 03/353.75.59 E-mail: adv@b-vc.be Website: www.b-vc.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, Dutch and German.

DU MONGH LAWYERS

Rodestraat 33 – 4 2000 Antwerp Tel: 03/233.02.20

Fax: 03/226.10.06

E-mail: secretariaat@dumongh.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French, Italian and German.

ELEGIS - Huybrechts Engels Craen and Partners

Mechelsesteenweg 64/101

2018 Antwerp Tel: 03/ 244.15.60 Fax: 03/ 238.41.40

E-mail: w.denhaerynck@elegis.com

Website: www.elegis.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French and German. Limited Portuguese.

ERDMAN, Frederik

Amerikalei 25-27 2000 Antwerp Tel: 03/238.55.32 Fax: 03/248.08.99

E-mail: frederik.erdman@skynet.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, marriage/divorce, insurance, criminal law, damages.

Fluent in English and Dutch.

LAW FIRM MERTENS, MATTHEESSENS & MERTENS

Turnhoutsebaan 214 - 216

2110 Wijnegem Tel: 03/353.62.96 Fax: 03/353.77.06

E-mail: info@mertens-law.be; erwin@mertens-law.be

Website: www.mertens-law.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, auto/accidents.

Partner specializes in family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, estates, criminal law and narcotics.

Fluent Dutch, good English and French and limited German. One partner speaks Lithuanian and another one speaks Italian.

Fluent in English and Dutch.

MUL Law Offices

Tel: 03/237.34.26

Jan Van Rijswijcklaan 194A bus 6 2020 Antwerp

Fax: 03/237.07.44 E-mail: <u>info@drmul.com</u> Website: www.drmul.com

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, labor relations and auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French, German and English.

NCD LAW

Lange Lozanastraat 2 2018 Antwerp Tel: 03/237.64.52

Tel: 03/237.64.52 Fax: 03/216.47.87

E-mail: herman.naeyaert@ncd-law.be

Website: www.ncd-law.be

Insurance, commercial/business law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and Spanish.

PETERFREUND & Associates

Belgiëlei 15B 2018 Antwerp Tel: 0476/22.04.02 Fax: 03/230.70.95

E-mail: daniel.peterfreund@peterfreundlaw.com

Website: www.peterfreundlaw.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, labor relations and auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French, English and Hebrew.

STAPPERS, ELIAERTS & THIERS advocaten cvba

Vlaamse Kaai 54-57 2000 Antwerpen Tel: 03/260.68.88 Fax: 03/260.68.99

E-mail: stefanie.tack@stappers-law.be, info@stappers-law.be

Website: www.stappers-law.be

Labor relations and immigration.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French.

TRITSMANS Advocatenkantoor

Albertstraat 29 2018 Antwerp Tel: 03/244.11.20 Fax: 03/244.11.29

E-mail: advocaten@kantoortritsmans.com

Website: www.tritsmans.com

Family law, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, aeronautical/maritime, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French. Limited German and Italian.

VAN GOETHEM LAW FIRM

Fruithoflaan 124 box 14 2600 Berchem

Tel: +31-43-388.30.60 Fax: 03/237.60.17

E-mail: michael.faure@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Website: www.michaelfaure.be

Family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents, trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration, auto/accidents.

Fluent English, French and German; basic Mandarin Chinese.

BRUGES

Advocatenkantoor Ronse

Lieven Bauwensstraat 10 Box 2

8200 Brugge Tel: 050/67.65.15 Fax: 050/67.65.16

E-mail: pierre.ronse@advoronse.be
Website: www.advoronse.be

Family law, cild custody, parental child abduction, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, criminal law, damages, commercial law, contracts, auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch and French; good English.

DWL - LAW

Dampoortstraat 5 8310 Brugge Tel: 050/33.25.14

Fax: 050/37.10.45

E-mail: hans.weyts@dwl-advocaten.be

Family Law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Good in English, Dutch, French and German.

BRUSSELS

BORNET & Associés

Avenue Winston Churchill-laan 79 Box 25

1180 Brussels Tel: 02/347.18.40 Fax: 02/347.10.92

E-mail: bornet@libralex.be
Website: www.libralex.com

Family law, child custody, parental child adbuction, child protection, marriage/divorce, commercial/business law, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, contracts.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch.

EVEREST-LAW

Avenue Louise 283 Box 19

1050 Brussels Tel: 02/640.44.00 Fax: 02/648.99.95

E-mail: stephane.bertouille@everest-law.eu

Website: www.everest-law.eu

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, taxes, immigration.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch.

FRAGOMEN GLOBAL

Avenue des Arts/Kunstlaan 44

B-1040 Brussels Tel: 02/550.10.20 Fax: 02/550.10.29

E-mail: evelynevanderelst@fragomen.com

Website: www.fragomen.com

Foreign investments, immigration.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French.

HOFFMANN & PARTNERS

Avenue Louise 385 Box 1

1050 Brussels Tel: 02/648.09.70 Fax: 02/640.27.79

E-mail: secretar@hoffmann-partners.com
Website: www.hoffmann-partners.com

Marriage/divorce, insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, taxes, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English, German, French, Italian and Dutch.

KOAN Legal Strategies

1170 Brussels Tel: 02/566.90.00 Fax: 02/566.90.10 E-mail: jdc@koan.eu

Vorstlaan 100

E-mail: jdc@koan.eu Website: https://koan.law

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, taxes, government relations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English, French, Dutch, German, Spanish and Italian.

LAFFINEUR Law Firm

Rue de Stassart 131 1050 Brussels Tel: 02/286.80.22 Fax: 02/286.80.26

E-mail: info@laffineur.com
Website: www.laffineur.com

Commercial/business law, marketing agreements, commercial law, contracts, government relations.

Fluent in English, French and Italian. Very good Spanish and Portuguese.

LEXIAL

Boulevard St. Michel, 11

1040 Etterbeek Tel: 02/880.79.52 Fax: 02/511.22.42 E-mail: lexial@lexial.eu Website: www.lexial.eu

Foreign investments, criminal law, contracts, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations, immigration.

Fluent in English and French.

LINKLATERS IIp

Brederodestraat 13 1000 Brussels Tel: 02/501.94.11 Fax: 02/501.94.94

E-mail: Online.Services@linklaters.com

Website: www.linklaters.com

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, patents/trademarks/copyrights, criminal law, commercial law, contracts, corporations, estates, taxes, labor relations,.

Fluent in English.

LOYENS & LOEFF

Woluwe Atrium Rue Neerveldstraat 101-103 1200 Brussels

Tel: 02/743.43.43 Fax: 02/773.23.55

E-mail: <u>information@loyensloeff.com</u> Website: <u>www.loyensloeff.com</u>

Banking/financial, Commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, estates, taxes, labor relations.

Fluent in English, French and Dutch.

MARX VAN RANST VERMEERSCH & Partners

Tervurenlaan - Avenue de Tervuren 270

Tel: 02/285.01.00 Fax: 02/230.33.39 E-mail: info@mvvp.be Website: www.mvvp.be

1150 Brussels

Banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyrights, commercial law, contracts, corporations, labor relations.

Fluent in English, Dutch, and French.

SCHWEITZERLEX

Zelliksesteenweg 12 - 1

1082 Brussels Tel: 02/465.88.69 Fax: 02/469.02.52

E-mail: edwin@heitkamp.be
Website: www.schweitzerlex.be

Family law, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, insurance, commercial/business law, foreign investments, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, foreign claims, estates, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German and Dutch.

VAN BAEL & BELLIS

Glaverbel Building Chaussée de La Hulpe, 166 1170 Brussels

Tel: 02/647.73.50 Fax: 02/640.64.99

E-mail: <u>brussels@vbb.com</u>
Website: <u>www.vanbaelbellis.com</u>

EU competition, trade and regulatory law, Belgian business law.

Fluent in Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, Finnish, French, German, Japanese, Italianm Norwegian, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish and Ukranian.

VAN BELLE LAW

Avenue Louise 343 1050 Brussels Tel: 02/431 64 00 Fax: 02/431 64 01

E-mail: <u>jv@vanbelle-law.be</u>
Website: <u>www.vanbelle-law.be</u>

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, patents/trademarks/copyright, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, corporations, foreign claims, estates, taxes, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English, French, German and Dutch.

CHARLEROI

STEWART AND STEWART (Correspondent Office of the Law Offices of Stewart & Stewart)

Boulevard Dewandre 13 6000 Charleroi

Tel: 071/32.51.31 Fax: 071/32.35.26

E-mail: spinoit99@hotmail.com

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, foreign investments, marketing agreements, civil law, criminal law, damages, narcotics, collections, commercial law, contracts, transportation law, corporations, aeronautical/maritime, foreign claims, estates, government relations, auto/accidents, family law, adoptions, child custody, parental child abduction, child protection, marriage/divorce, labor relations.

Fluent in English, French, Dutch and German.

GHENT

STORME, LEROY, VAN PARYS

Coupure 5 9000 Gent

Tel: 09/224.34.99 Fax: 09/223.99.50

E-mail: <u>m.storme@storme-law.be</u> Website: <u>www.storme-law.be</u>

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations.

Fluent in English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish and Italian.

KORTRIJK

Espace Juridique Avocats

Presidentr Rooseveltplein, 1

8500 Kortrijk Tel: 056/22.51.66 Fax: 056/22.85.83

E-mail: robrecht.bauwens@ejadvocaten.be

Website: www.ejadvocaten.be, www.ejavocats.eu

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, marketing agreements, civil law, damages, collections, commercial law, contracts, auto/accidents.

Fluent in Dutch, French and English. Good German.

LEUVEN

DURNEZ ADVOCATEN

Waversebaan 134A 3050 Oud-Heverlee Tel: 016/40.60.40

Mobile: 0475/26.71.26 Fax: 016/40.68.75

E-mail: info@durnezadv.be
Website: www.durnezadv.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, patents/trademarks/copyrights, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, foreign claims, government relations, labor relations.

Fluent in English, Dutch and French; limited German.

LIEGE

DELFOSSE & Associés

Rue Beeckman 45 4000 Liège

Tel: 04/232.30.60, 04/232.30.61 Fax: 04/223.77.11, 04/223.04.61

E-mail: cd@avocatsdelfosse.be

Website: <u>www.avocatsdelfosse.be</u>

Insurance, civil law, damages, labor relations, auto/accidents.

Fluent in French; good English, Dutch and German.

MONS

Cabinet F. SERVAIS & S. VAN GALEN

Rue du Onze Novembre 31 7000 Mons

Tel.: 065/35.26.78 Fax: 065/35.22.13

E-mail: s.vangalen@avocat.be

Insurance, civil law, damages, auto/accidents.

Fluent in English and French.

DIKEOS Société d'avocats

Avenue d'Hyon 49 R3 7000 Mons

Tel: 065/34.63.46 Fax: 065/33.50.77

E-mail: dikeos@skynet.be

Insurance, banking/financial, commercial/business law, civil law, damages, commercial law, contracts, estates, auto/accidents.

Fluent in French; good English.